

# Validation of scan sampling techniques for behavioral observations of broiler chickens

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**STEP Faculty Member:** Dr. Brian Lower

**Major:** Animal Science

**Project:** Undergraduate research

## Experience Description:

During my STEP project, I participated in undergraduate research through the Department of Animal Science in the College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. My project took place over the course of ten weeks during the summer of 2017 under my advisor Dr. Monique Pairis-Garcia. For my project, I looked at the validation of scan sampling techniques for broiler chickens. In this project, I collected behavioral data on seventy-seven one week old broiler chickens and analyzed the data.

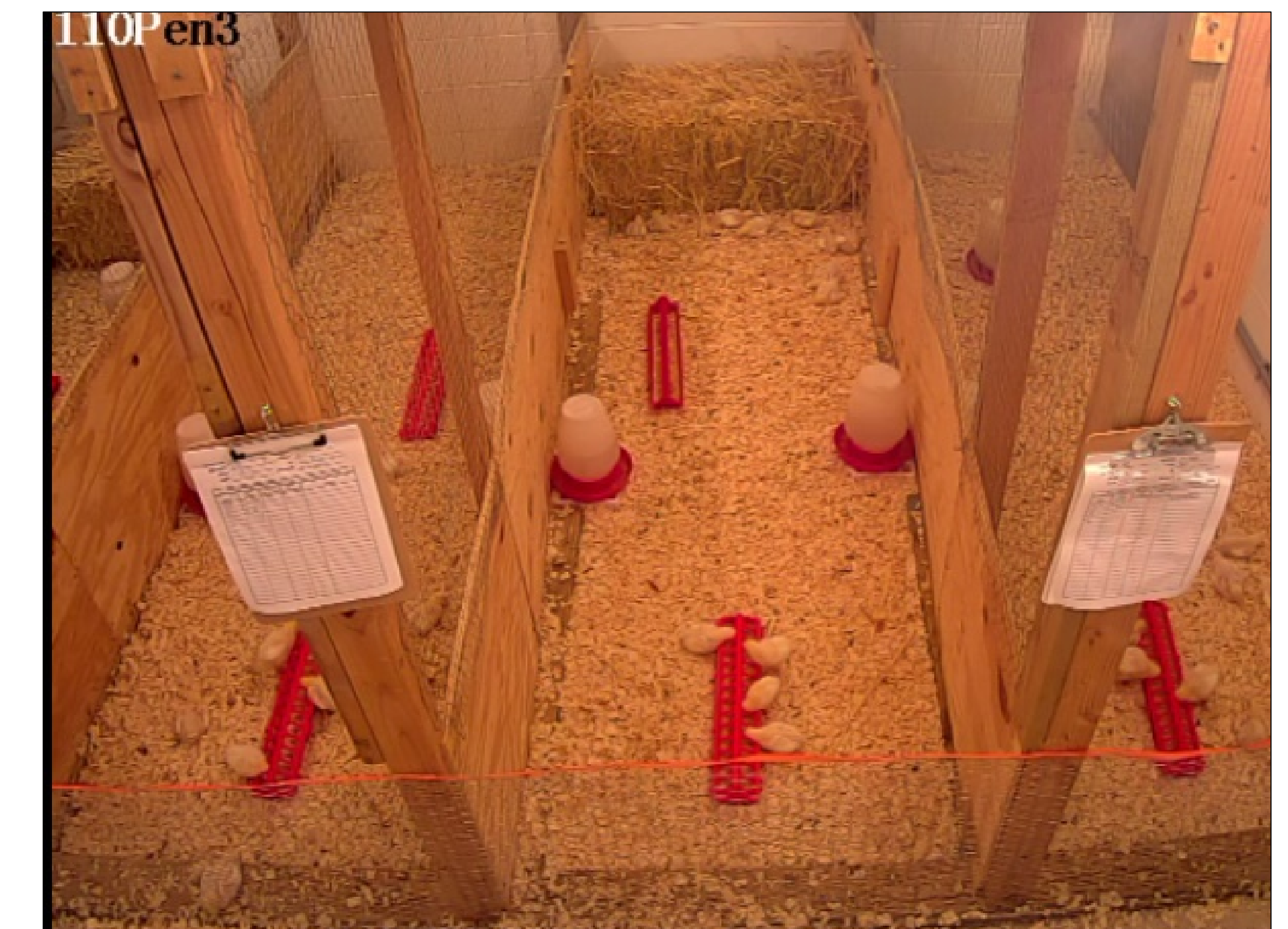
## What I learned:

I learned about the importance of behavioral research in today's world. I learned how behavioral and welfare research can create a change not only in the agricultural field but also beyond. Along with this, I learned how to collect behavioral data and learned a lot more about animal behavior and welfare and the animal industry in the United States. During my research, I also had a chance to visit commercial facilities and help with data collection. I had a chance to learn how to analyze and present behavioral data.



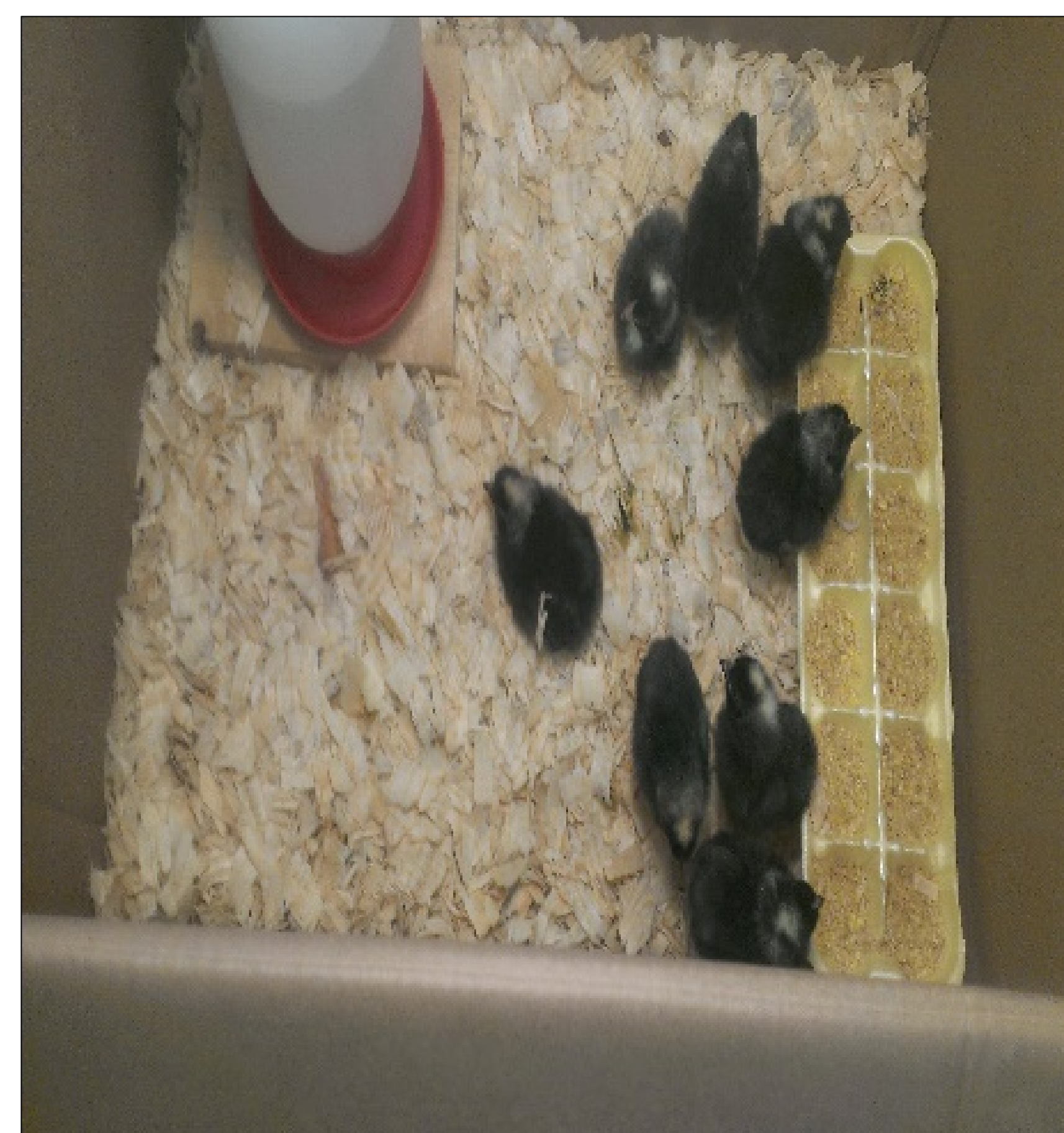
## Impact on academic and life goals:

My academic goal includes going to a veterinary school and becoming a veterinarian. Doing undergraduate research has provided me with a skill set which will enable me to succeed in the future. Skills like reading scientific literature, analyzing data and presenting the data will definitely help me in my future endeavors. My life goal includes helping animals in any way possible. This project has impacted my life goal in a great way. It has taught me how research can greatly impact the lives of the animals. It has inspired me to pursue research after getting into the veterinary school and to continue to impact the lives of the animals by ensuring their welfare. Overall, it encouraged me to pursue what I had always wanted.



## Personal impact:

Whenever I look back to when I started as an Animal Science major here at Ohio State, I never thought I would work with chickens. After this experience, I realized that working with chickens was great. It made me understand the importance of poultry industry. It made me a more responsible person overall. It also taught me how to be more independent and self reliant.



## Favorite part of your experience:

The favorite part of my experience as an undergraduate research assistant was being able to work hands on with chickens. I was not very confident in handling chickens before this experience, but as I got to handle them more, I became much more comfortable with them. I also loved networking with the faculty in my department and getting to know them personally. I also developed friendships working with my colleagues and doing teamwork. I also loved how I got to visit various commercial facilities. The overall experience was amazing and I am very grateful for this experience. I